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## TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### Speaker of the House

### Biography

#### Links

- ★ [Welcome](#)
- ★ [Send Email](#)
- ★ [Acceptance Speech](#)
- ★ [Powers and Duties](#)

When Tom Craddick decided to run for a seat in the Texas House of Representatives at age 25, his father, a Midland pharmacist, told him, "Texas is run by Democrats, son; you can't win." But win, he did, and in 1968, the young freshman legislator took his seat in the historic House Chamber—one of only six Republicans out of a field of 150 House members. Thus, Tom Craddick began a legislative career that has been characterized by beating the odds.

More than three decades later, in 2003, he beat the odds to become Texas' first Republican House Speaker in modern history.

As a youthful freshman, Craddick quickly demonstrated that he had come to the Texas House to do a job and would be deterred by neither his freshman status nor his minority party affiliation. He was there to represent the people of Midland, Glasscock and Reagan counties, and his dedication to doing the right thing for his constituents resulted in their re-electing him to serve eighteen consecutive terms.

Tom Craddick was the first Republican chairman of a standing Texas House committee, the Committee on Natural Resources. During his 34-year tenure, he has served on and chaired numerous other committees, including the House Ways and Means Committee and the House State Affairs Committee. He has represented the Texas House on the National Conference of State Legislatures' Federal Budget and Taxation Committee on the Interstate Oil Compact. Craddick has been the recipient of numerous legislative awards.

Craddick's home base always has been Midland, which also is the former home of the current President of the United States, George W. Bush. Born September 19, 1943, he attended Midland public schools and received his BBA and MBA degrees from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, where he met his wife and best friend, Nadine. They married in 1969 and have two children, Christi Craddick and Thomas Russell Craddick, Jr., both of Austin.

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